

**To:** Robinson, Valois[Robinson.Valois@epa.gov]  
**From:** Sierra-Lopez, Omar[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1C2130E884DD45B7909D43E7E701BD98-SIERRA-LOPE]  
**Sent:** Thur 10/8/2020 6:19:08 PM (UTC)  
**Subject:** Questions about Powertech/NRC Biological Assessments

Valois:

I know Powertech submitted the Biological Assessment to us and NRC. Did NRC ever submitted a Biological Assessment to us?

I need to clarify the below comment on the RTC. Thanks!

I believe this is a typo and should be "Powertech **to** NRC"

ESA Response 6:

The biological surveys submitted by Powertech and NRC were not used for EPA’s ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation process with the FWS and therefore did not inform EPA’s determination that its SDWA actions “may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect”, the rufa red knot, northern long-eared bat or the whooping crane. In making these findings, EPA’s BA analyzed the potential impacts of its actions on the federally-listed species, including appropriate mitigation measures. On August 6, 2020, the FWS provided written concurrence with EPA’s determination. Therefore, the EPA’s SDWA actions do not result in any unauthorized take involving the whooping crane or any other listed species.. The greater sage grouse (active leks), bald eagle, and golden eagle were not included in EPA’s BA because they are not ESA-listed species. The Agency has no comment on the NRC’s independent ESA consultation process or conclusions therein.

**Matsumoto, Kimi**  
Should this be “and” or “to”? If it’s “and”, to whom where the surveys submitted?  
**Sierra-Lopez, Omar**  
I will verify with Valois, but we never

Regards,

Omar Sierra-Lopez  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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